

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF
SECTION 603 OF THE
INTELLIGENCE IDENTITIES PROTECTION ACT

The purpose of section 603 in the original House version of the Intelligence Identities Protection Act (H.R. 4) was to ensure that undercover intelligence officers and employees receive effective cover, and that other departments and agencies of the government would assist the Intelligence Community in providing cover arrangements. In its report on the Bill, however, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI) noted that it was not intended that the Peace Corps be used to provide cover for intelligence purposes, although the Peace Corps was not specifically excluded from the language of the Bill. The section remained unchanged when the House passed H.R. 4.

When the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI) reported its version of the Bill (S. 391), the language in section 603 was the same as the House Bill, except that the Peace Corps was specifically excluded. During Senate debate of S. 391, the Senate agreed by unanimous consent to drop section 603 altogether. Senators believed it was not a good idea to call attention to any specific agencies, especially the Peace Corps. They did make clear that in the Conference Committee they would have to insist on keeping the Peace Corps exception if section 603 were to be left in the Bill.

The Conference Committee agreed to a substitute section 603, which requires the President to submit an annual report to the HPSCI and SSCI on cover mechanisms and their adequacy in protecting the identities of covert agents.